P. Bodwell.
Simsbury

Simsbury Ct. May 24th. Paid 12½.

Mr Amos A. Phelps

South Berwick

Maine

answered.

My cousin how does Religion flourish about you? and how in your own soul? It is of vast importance for us to know where we are. Now when the enemy is coming in like a flood it is highly necessary for us to be awake. In Canton there is quite a refreshing season, about twenty I believe are reckoned as having obtained hopes — a number more serious and in short there is a general excitement. Last week they had a meeting when the members of the Church all came forward and renewed their covenant engagements to the Lord. It is to be hoped that the Lord is about to do a glorious work there. And Oh that it may extend to Simsbury. Alas I greatly fear that we are a people forsaken of our God. Neither judgements nor mercies seem to move us. One would have thought the sudden death of Phineas Mather would have been sufficient to arouse at least those who were his associates from their slumbers But alas how soon is he forgotten. and a preperation for death put far away. How long! Oh how long shall it be [illegible]

Amos, excuse me, if you thought that I meant you spoke in too high terms of your much admired stranger Lady No far be it from me to think that real worth can be too highly prized. I am glad it was your happy fortune to become acquainted there. I am ready to confide in your word that she is a very amiable Lady. Were I to select a Friend, that would stand by in the most trying situation, I would take one that had been nurtured in the school of adversity Such an one knows how to bear a sympathizing part in every trial of life. You will perceive I have patterned after you in delaying my letter four weeks, but you must excuse, and write soon — I shall be impatient for an answer. — I hope you will speak your mind what I had better do in case my letter should be called for. I think I had better keep it close, but perhaps you may think differently. — Friends are all well. Sister D. has returned from the south well contented to remain here Yours truly P. Bodwell

Nor was it enough to tell a part— as near as I can learn M. coppied my letter— and Ennis has a copy of it now in his possession. He knows the whole— and says what is written shall be proved. Now I think this is unnecessary trouble and I told Mary I was very sorry it had happened I told her you did it to befriend her and should anything prove serious about it might involve you in difficulty— as it might be some trouble to be obliged to prove the facts. Had she been as still about it as I requested or even as I have been it would have remained a secret to this part of the world— but it is as it is and it will be of no use to talk about it— The most I can say is I am very sorry it is made public— Ennis expresses his determination to commence a law-suit— and says you shall prove what you have written— You need not be surprised therefore if he should send you a greeting— I hope you will not be frightened so as to deprive you of reason— He has never said a word to me about it, but I expect every day when he will— I hear he says he will have the orginal letter— but I rather think I shall have as much as one word to say about that. I rather think my little box will hold it fast,— and I could wish it always had.—

Sabbath Eve. Amos, more are they that be for us than they that be for him— We are professedly fighting against a vanquished enemy— the Lord is our banner and we shall at the end come off victorious— Though the grand adversary may employ all his servants to fight us we need not fear— We shall pass through the fire unhurt— We shall eventually be placed beyond their reach and sing the song of triumph through our Redeemer— Now I do not know but my fears are groundless respecting Ennis. Perhaps it is nothing more than his threats but I write this to have you on your guard— Be ye ready for him.

Simsbury May 23 1827

Cousin Amos

I have delayed writing three weeks for two reasons.— One is, some exertions to revive our singing has taken all my leisure time singe you last wrote. We had a singing lecture last Wednesday which closed the term and gives me new liberty.— My other preventative was, I wish'd to hear from Farmington so as to be able to give all the information I could gather.— I called there last Monday but did not see your Mother.— she was gone to Hartford.— From Mary and her Mother I learned some hard words had passed between E. and your Mother.— I regret very much to hear the tidings,— and I am sure you will as much.— I am sure had Mary acted a prudent and wise part it never would come to this.— And I am sure had your Mother thought of the consequences that would of course result from it, she would not have mentioned what she did.— You will undoubtedly be aware by this time of what I am about to write.— You will recollect how you commenced your first letter to me and how you solemnly charged me not to show the contents to Mary without a solemn promise on Mary's part not to devulge one jot or tittle of it. &c.— So far as I had anything to do about it I followed your directions.— only in this respect I kept back the contents longer than was your request.— It was indeed a task to make her acquainted with the facts. It was not till quite the last of March that she saw the letter. Then by her and her Mother's request I ventured to let her take it home,— but not till I reminded her of the promise she must make to you.— Here I thought it would terminate.— But what, must I hear next? Why the very first news I had from Farmington,— Mary had told Mrs Bryon and she had belched it right out to Ennis,— which made war you know.